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Sandbach Urban District Council.

REPORT

on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the Year ended 31st December, 1949.

Medical Officer of Health :

C. DOVE CORMAC, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

G. ALLMAN, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I.
(*Resigned, Aug. 1949*)

N. A. ROGERS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
(*Appointed, Aug. 1949*)

To The Chairman and Members of the
Sandbach Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Sandbach Urban District during the year 1949, which is the first complete year since the National Health Act came into operation.

My combined appointment as Divisional Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health has enabled the environmental health services administered by you to be co-ordinated to the fullest extent with those health services provided by the Cheshire County Council. I have therefore included in my Report details of the Public Health Services administered by both authorities.

I wish to express my thanks both to you, to other offcials of the Council and to my staff for the help and co-operation which I have received throughout the year. I also acknowledge with thanks the assistance given to me by the Sanitary Inspector and the Surveyor in compiling my Report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

C. DOVE CORMAC,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population 8,700

Births

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births—Legitimate	... ...	129	66	63
Illegitimate	... ...	4	3	1
Still Births—Legitimate	... ...	5	3	2
Illegitimate	... ...	—	—	—

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid 1949—15.3.

Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population—16.7.

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—38.4.

Still birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population—0.57.

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total population—0.39.

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age is shown as follows:—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	4	3	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births—30.1.

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales—32.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—31.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—0.

Deaths

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths, all ages	93	49	44

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population—10.7.

Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population—11.7.

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes:—

	No. of Deaths
Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Maternal causes	0
	—
	0
	—

The Maternal Mortality is 0 per 1,000 live and still births.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year calling for special comment.

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year:—

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	1	—
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	1	—	1
Measles	—	—	—
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	1	—	1
Acute inf. encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph: (M), uterus (F)	1	—	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	1	1
Cancer of breast...	—	—	—
Cancer of all other sites	9	5	4
Diabetes	1	1	—
Intracranial vascular lesions	6	2	4
Heart diseases	16	11	5
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	—	1
Bronchitis	1	1	—
Pneumonia	1	—	1
Other respiratory diseases	2	—	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum... ...	1	1	—
Diarrhoea under two years	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	1	1	—
Nephritis	3	1	2
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis ...	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth...	2	2	—
Congenital malformation, birth inj. inf. dis.	2	1	1
Suicide	—	—	—
Road traffic accidents	3	2	1
Other violent causes	1	1	—
All other causes...	36	18	18
Total... ...	93	49	44

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

Care of Mothers and Young Children

One Infant Welfare Centre is situated in Sandbach and sessions are held weekly. The Centre, situated at Marriott House, serves both Sandbach and adjacent parts of Congleton Rural District. Attendances during the year at this centre were high, amounting to 1,368 under one year of age, 887 between ages one and five, while 1,093 cases were seen by a doctor.

Health visiting is carried out by one nurse on the staff of the Cheshire County Council.

Home Nursing Service

Three district nurses are resident in Sandbach and the Home Nursing Service formerly carried out by voluntary committees is now provided by the Cheshire County Council.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Early in the year sessions for immunisation against Diphtheria were completed in all schools. Immunisation against Diphtheria and against Whooping Cough, and vaccinations have been carried out by doctors at their surgeries, at home and at the Welfare Centre.

STATISTICS

Diphtheria Immunisation

Age 0 to 4	44
Age 5 to 14	90
Reinforcing injections	197

Whooping Cough Immunisation

All age groups	4

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Combined Immunisation

All age groups	2

Vaccination

Primary Vaccination

Age 0 to 4	14
Age 5 to 14	3
Adults	Nil

Re-Vaccination

Age 0 to 4	Nil
Age 5 to 14	Nil
Adults	4

Ambulances and Transport

The Sandbach Red Cross Society have continued to provide an efficient Ambulance Service in Sandbach and neighbouring districts on behalf of the Cheshire County Council. During the year 570 patients were carried by Red Cross Ambulances with a mileage of 15,866. Sitting-cases have been conveyed both by taxi and by the Hospital Car Service which operates from Macclesfield.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care

As the control of Tuberculosis presents a most pressing problem, the Divisional Health Committee have formed a Care and After Care Sub-Committee to undertake certain aspects of this work.

Domestic Help Service

Under section 29 of the National Health Service Act, the Cheshire County Council provide a Home Help Service for persons who are ill or lying-in, for expectant mothers, for mental defectives, for aged persons and for children not over compulsory school age. The Divisional Health Committee have recently appointed one full-time Home Help for work in Sandbach and neighbouring districts, while part-time help has been employed where necessary. A charge is made for this service and varies on a sliding scale according to the patient's income.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water

The Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board is responsible for the supply of water to the Sandbach Urban District. All the dwelling-houses in the area have piped supplies from the public mains with the exception of a few isolated properties which have their own pump wells.

The quality of the water supply throughout the year has been satisfactory, though the same cannot be said of the quantity. The water pressure throughout the District is insufficient to meet peak demands and there are local shortages due to inadequate mains and services. This matter is receiving the attention of the Water Board and there is likely to be an improvement in the near future.

The Board's employees carry out regular sampling for chemical and bacteriological examination.

The water supplied to Sandbach is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Drainage and Sewerage

No sewer extensions have been carried out during the year.

The sewage works continue to function satisfactorily and no adverse reports have been received on the effluents.

During the year the hydraulic pump at the Newcastle Road Pumping Station became the subject of much attention on account of the substantial waste of water which was continually taking place through the defective working of the pump. The Council decided to install an electric pump and this is now working satisfactorily.

As a result of a revision of duties the Sanitary Inspector ceased from November 1949, to be responsible for Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, and from then onwards these duties were carried out by the Council's full-time Engineer and Surveyor.

Refuse Removal and Disposal

Every endeavour has been made throughout the year to maintain an efficient service, and very few complaints are now received. The building of more houses and the discontinuance of official paper salvage have made more difficult our attempts to maintain a 7-day collection cycle.

Another employee passed a Driving-test in October; so that there is now a reserve driver on the Collection Vehicle and this will prevent a recurrence of difficulties which previously arose when the one and only driver was sick or on holiday.

The Council decided in September to abandon Paper Salvage, and as a result of this, it became necessary to revert to the responsibililty of charging the tradespeople for the removal of their refuse. This was done by the sale to the tradesmen of books of money-vouchers which were surrendered

to the Collectors upon removal of a quantity of trade refuse. After having asked the same people for several years previously to contribute the maximum amount of waste paper, there were naturally many individual protests at the inception of the new scheme, but personal explanation in each case led to an understanding of the Council's responsibilities, and the scheme is now working smoothly.

The Council's Refuse Tip at Malkins' Bank has been continued in use, and a man was employed in a part-time capacity up to June in maintaining the Tip in good order. From then onwards the bulk of the refuse collected was tipped by arrangement on subsided farm land at Elworth. Controlled tipping methods are practised by the farmer and the result has been very satisfactory from all points of view. The Council is at present negotiating for the purchase of additional low-lying waste land adjoining the Malkins' Bank Tip and it is estimated that this would provide tipping space for another 25 years. This is an excellent location for a Refuse Tip and, with a greater effort at control, it should be possible in due course to reclaim for agricultural purposes land which is at present useless.

The general state of refuse receptacles in the District is by no means good and steps will have to be taken in the near future to ensure that all premises are supplied with a dustbin of an approved pattern. Apart from being an hygienic necessity, this should speed up the collection of refuse from premises which at present are provided with receptacles varying between wooden tea-chests and 40-gallon oil drums. In view of conflicting Court decisions throughout the country on appeals made as to the responsibility for the supply of dustbins, it would appear most judicious for the Council to undertake the supply of standard bins in accordance with Section 75 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, and to make an annual charge for this service.

Salvage

The Council decided to discontinue the collection of waste paper in September after the Board of Trade had rescinded the compulsory direction of this service.

The collection of kitchen-waste by means of communal street bins has continued throughout the year. Up to September this waste was collected weekly and dumped in the Council's Works Yard pending collection by a processing firm. From October onwards the kitchen-waste was delivered immediately after collection to the Crewe Corporation processing plant. This is obviously a more satisfactory arrangement.

The following amounts of Salvage were sold during 1949:—

		£	s.	d.
Paper	61 tons 19 cwt. ...	367	9	10
Cardboard Boxes ...	4,203	52	10	9
Textiles	2 tons 7 cwt. ...	38	14	4
Bottles & Jars	59 doz.	1	9	11
Kitchen Waste	25 tons 17 cwt. ...	51	6	2
Bones	4 tons 10 cwt.	1	3	7
Trefoil Cups	1 cwt.	0	10	0

Allowance claimed from the Board of Trade for Increased Waste Paper Collection during 1949 was £24 7s. 3d.

Rodent Control

Active steps have been taken throughout the year to limit the extent of rodent infestation to a minimum and the results of our efforts have been good. There are no reservoir or major infestations in the District. Routine and special inspections are made by the Sanitary Inspector, and under his supervision a part-time Rodent Operative who has been specially trained carries out the destruction in accordance with Ministry of Food directions.

Contracts have been entered into for the treatment of 9 business premises by our Operative. The continued renewal of these contracts indicates that the service is giving satisfaction. By agreement, schools are treated as required and a charge is made on a cost-plus basis.

The sewers have been treated for rats twice during the year. Infestations persist only in small sections of the sewers and treatment of surface properties in these vicinities has been carried out.

The Council's Refuse Tip and Sewage Disposal Works have been regularly treated, with good results.

The situation in regard to rodent infestation may now be regarded as fairly satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspection

Number of Inspections during the year	967
Statutory Notices served during the year	2
Statutory Notices complied with during year	0
Informal Notices served during year	33
Informal Notices complied with during year	28

The number of Notices served does not accurately reflect the amount of work which has been carried out, as a substantial number of matters are attended to as a result of interviews with the persons responsible. This applies particularly in the case of more urgent matters, such as obstructed drains, when a personal approach to the individuals concerned almost invariably secures immediate attention. Whilst it is realised that no owner likes to be ordered by the Local Authority to carry out work on his property, in a small town such as this even an Informal Notice is apt to create antagonism; whereas in larger centres a more impersonal attitude can be adopted by the officials concerned. In any case, the measure of success of any method lies in the effects obtained, and in Sandbach the results can be said to be satisfactory.

It has not been necessary to institute Court Proceedings in any case during the year.

Offensive Trades

There is only one Offensive Trade in the District—a Bone-Boiler. There have been no complaints in respect of this business during the year and no substantial nuisances have been discovered during routine inspections.

Moveable Dwellings

The Council issued one licence in respect of a Moveable Dwelling during 1949. This dwelling was removed in November, and at the end of the year there were no Moveable Dwellings in the District.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no Public Swimming Baths or Pools in the area.

Canal Boats

It was found necessary in only one case to take action in respect of Canal Boats passing through this District.

Public Conveniences

The provision of new Public Conveniences in the centre of the town is still an urgent necessity. The existing conveniences are antiquated, unhygenic, and induce neither pride nor respect from the users.

In August, 1949, the Minister of Health intimated that he was prepared to give consideration to an application for loan sanction for the erection of new Public Conveniences, and at the end of the year plans were being prepared for a further approach to the Minister.

Smoke Abatement

During 1949, ten timed observations were taken of industrial chimneys in the District. In the case of three of the premises smoke was emitted in such quantity as to constitute a nuisance. The occupiers were notified, and visits were made to the plants and advice given on steps to be taken to prevent the smoke nuisance.

Considerable trouble was experienced by the regular emission of smoke from the chimneys connected with the salt-pan furnaces at a Salt Works in the area. This nuisance has persisted for some years, but the matter has received more attention and publicity during 1949. The plant is very old and there are certain technicalities in this method of salt making which prevent the adoption of any reasonably practicable solution to the smoke problem. Technicians from the Ministry of Fuel and Power, after thorough investigation, were unable to offer any practical suggestions in the matter. The firm concerned is completing the construction of a new vacuum processing plant, and as this is put into operation the old salt-pans will be gradually eliminated.

SECTION D

Housing

No formal Notices were served under the Housing Acts during 1949. No Demolition Orders were made and no houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders.

It has not been possible nor opportune to make a general survey of the area with a view to demolition or extensive repair of houses. Requirements have been confined to essential matters controlled by the Public Health Act.

Platt Avenue Site

Thirty-six houses were completed on this site during the year, bringing the total occupied to 68, leaving 22 houses in process of construction.

Elworth Road Site

A site was purchased during the year and twenty-two houses were commenced and under construction at the end of the year.

Crewe Road Site

A site was purchased during the year to accommodate approximately 250 houses and building operations will be commencing early in the new year.

Plans Passed

(a) Dwellings	8
(b) Additions and renovations to dwellings ...	19
(c) Other buildings	36

Building Licences

Owing to the regulations relative to building licences being revised to allow a free limit of £100 instead of £10 in any one year the number of licences issued for building work showed a considerable decrease on the previous year. Licences for repair work, etc., issued during 1949 totalled 13, as follows:—

Improvement of Sanitary Conditions	5
Structural Repairs	2
Additional Accommodation	3
Miscellaneous	3

Number of Dwellings Erected

By Private Enterprise	4
By Local Authority	36
By Local Authority (Prefabricated)	0
	40

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk

The new Milk legislation which came into force on 1st October, 1949, changed the responsibilities for the registration and licensing of dairies and dairymen. In effect, the Ministry of Agriculture became responsible for the control of the production side, whilst the Local Authorities were left to control the distribution side of the milk.

At the end of the year the position as regards this Council was as follows:—

Registered Dairies	3
Registered Distributors	8
Dealers' Licences to Sell Sterilized Milk ...	3
Dealers' Licences to Sell Pasteurised Milk...	6
Dealers' Licences to Sell Tuberculin-Tested Milk	5
Dealers' Licences to Sell Accredited Milk ...	1
Supplementary Licences in respect of T.T. Milk	3
Supplementary Licences in respect of Pasteurised Milk	3
Supplementary Licences in respect of Sterilized Milk	1

The number of Retailers in the area is substantially higher than the number shown as registered by this Council, the reason being that some dairy farmers retail the milk by means of vehicles direct from their farms, and registration by the Local Authority is not called for in these cases by the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

It appears likely that stronger supervision will have to be exercised over some of the Milk Retailers in the District, but at the same time it is wise to co-ordinate such action with that of adjacent Authorities who possibly supervise the same Milkmen a few miles farther along the road.

Three samples of milk were taken by your Sanitary Inspector from local Retailers and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. One of these samples (Tuberculin-Tested), taken near the end of the year, was reported upon as unsatisfactory and further samples were being taken in the New Year to ascertain the stage where contamination occurred.

Meat and Other Foods

Routine inspections are regularly carried out at premises where food is prepared, sold or stored.

29 premises are registered with the Local Authority under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.

5 premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream. 9 premises are registered for the sale only of ice-ceam.

Efforts have been made during the year to improve the standard of food hygiene in the Council's Weekly Market, and the food traders have been found co-operative in this respect. Near the end of the year the Council agreed to place an order for a specimen set of four Market Stalls of an approved design and made of galvanized iron with aluminium counters. These should prove far more satisfactory for the sale of cakes, etc., than are the existing dilapidated wooden stalls which do not lend themselves easily to cleansing.

The following unsound foods were condemned during the year:—

67 tins of Vegetables.
53 tins of Milk.
24 tins of Fish.
7 tins of Soup.
3 jars of Pickles.
168lb. of Fish.
6¼lb. of Bacon.
11lb. of Lard.
18 tins of Fruit.
17 tins of Jam.
15 tins of Meat.
2 tins of Syrup.
218 Eggs.
50lb. of Sausage.
16½lb. of Cheese.
24 Frozen Rabbits.

Meat Inspection

The Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Flat Lane, Sandbach, deals with the whole of the meat supplied to the Urban Districts of Sandbach, Middlewich and Alsager, and all animals slaughtered at this abbatoir are examined by your Sanitary Inspector.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	416	590	291	4296	49
Number inspected	416	590	291	4296	49
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcases condemned	2	2	2	4	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	146	301	2	769	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	35.6	51.4	1.4	18	6.1
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcases condemned	7	16	2	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	103	235	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	26.4	42.5	0.7	—	8.2

During the year three beasts were notified under the Tuberculosis Order 1938. After slaughter they were all found to be unfit for human consumption and were destroyed.

Six cases of Cysticercus Bovis were detected at the Sandbach Slaughterhouse during 1949.

The transport of fresh meat in the district leaves much to be desired, despite minor improvements which have been effected at the instigation of the Sanitary Inspector. The meat transport vehicles at present in use were not constructed for use as such, and all the good attempts of the operators will never make them satisfactory for transporting meat. However, there are indications that a better type of van may be made available in the near future.

SECTION F

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease

The following table indicates the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the total number of deaths.

It will be noted that there were five cases of infantile paralysis with one death. The cases occurred at a time when there was a high incidence throughout the country.

The five cases of food poisoning occured after canned jellied veal had been eaten for an evening meal. The remains of the food were found to be heavily contaminated with Staphylococcus aureus, an organism not uncommonly responsible for such outbreaks. The tin was one of a large consignment, which was eventually withdrawn as other tins were found to be similarly affected.

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1949

	New Cases				Mortality			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Periods	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Up to 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	3	1	—	1	—	—	—

Notifications of Respiratory Tuberculosis, 1939-48

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Total
Sandbach U.D.	3	10	3	5	3	6	2	4	4	4	44
Cheshire Total	535	481	528	462	468	515	483	373	461	445	4651

Notifications of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis, 1939-48

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Total
Sandbach U.D.	1	1	2	5	3	5	4	1	2	7	31
Cheshire Total	275	204	224	257	220	223	190	140	197	159	2089

Factories Act, 1937

The following tables on the administration of the Factories Act 1937, give details of inspections and cases where defects were found:—

Premises	Number on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	50	24	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	36	19	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	2	6	—	—
Total	88	49	—	—

Cases in which defects were found

	No. of cases in which defects were		No. of cases in which defects were referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—

Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1949

Disease	Age distribution												Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25	35	45	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	8	8	5	9	28	1	—	—	—	—	—	60	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	5	5	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	5	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—